

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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12

ACTION EA-14

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NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ISO-00 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /079 W

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R 160809Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 670

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 0335

USIAC

FOR: IOP/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY: TAIPEI PRESS PROMINENTLY PLAYED AMBASSADOR SHEN'S ARRIVAL COMMENTS THAT KISSINGER RECENTLY PLEDGED CONTINUING U.S. DIPLOMATIC AND DEFENSE COMMITMENTS PLUS SHEN'S ASSURANCE THAT THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF U.S. RECOGNITION OF PEKING IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HOWEVER, LEADING UNITED DAILY NEWS SAID SHEN'S RETURN AT THIS TIME "RAISED UNUSUAL CONCERNS." ALL PAPERS FRONTAGED ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL'S WASHINGTON DEPARTURE FOR ASIAN TOUR, INCLUDING TAIWAN. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES TERMED 1974 "DECISIVE" FOR SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND URGED SOLIDIFICATION U.S.-ROC ALLIANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. TAIPEI PRESS PROMINENTLY FRONTAGED AMBASSADOR SHEN'S AIRPORT ARRIVAL COMMENTS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER RECENTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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PLEDGED CONTINUING U.S. DIPLOMATIC AND DEFENSE COMMITMENTS

TO ROC; SHEN ALSO SAID THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF U.S.
RECOGNITION OF PEKING IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

3. HOWEVER, LEADING UNITED DAILY NEWS ANALYSIS SAID SHEN'S RETURN HAS "RAISED UNUSUAL CONCERNS," PARTICULARLY BECAUSE HIS PREVIOUS TWO TRIPS HOME WERE SHROUDED BY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY WERE MADE RESPECTIVELY AFTER NIXON'S CHINA VISIT AND SIGNING OF SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, AND ESTABLISHMENT OF LIAISON OFFICES. NOW, FOLLOWING KISSINGER'S SIXTH VISIT TO PEKING AND STILL ANOTHER COMMUNIQUE PROMISING TO ACCELERATE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH PEKING, SHEN COMES HOME AGAIN. NO DOUBT HE WILL MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO GOVERNMENT ON KISSINGER'S LATEST PEKING TRIP AND HIS MEETING WITH KISSINGER IMMEDIATELY AFTER SECRETARY'S RETURN FROM PEKING. PAPER QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING SHEN MAY MEET ASSISTANT SECRETARY INGERSOLL IN TAIPEI BUT THIS WOULD ONLY BE COINCIDENCE SINCE SHEN'S RETURN NOT TIMED FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. MIN TSU EVENING NEWS NOTED THAT INGERSOLL IS ONE OF FEW IMPORTANT U.S. OFFICIALS TO VISIT ROC IN RECENT YEARS. PAPER SAID SHEN WILL ACCOMPANY INGERSOLL ON HIS TAIPEI OFFICIAL CALLS, ADDING "THERE ARE MANY PRACTICAL PROBLEMS IN SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP TO BE DISCUSSED NOW."

5. INFLUENTIAL CHINA TIMES EDITORIALY URGED SOLIDIFICATION OF U.S.-ROC ALLIANCE AND BOOSTING OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE YEAR 1974 WILL BE "DECISIVE" IN MANY ASPECTS AND U.S.-ROC RELATIONSHIP WILL BE "ONE OF PIVOTAL EVENTS." PAPER URGED ROC GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE DO UTMOST TO MAINTAIN U.S.-ROC ALLIANCE AND PROMOTE RELATIONS WITH U.S. FOR SAKE WORLD PEACE AND HUMAN WELFARE.
CLARKE

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